Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 to 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (currently amended) A process for recovering sulphur from a feed gas stream comprising hydrogen sulphide, including subjecting the feed gas stream to Claus ~~Glaus~~ reaction between hydrogen sulphide and sulphur dioxide in a train of stages comprising, in sequence, at least on thermal stage and a first catalytic stage, taking at least part of the flow through the train from downstream of the first catalytic stage, reducing its sulphur dioxide content to hydrogen sulphide to form a reduced gas flow, condensing water vapour out of the reduced gas flow, and introducing a temperature moderating stream of the resulting water depleted reduced gas flow into an intermediate region of the first catalytic stage.

Claim 14 (previously amended) The process according to claim 13, in which the introduction of the said temperature moderating stream is controlled so as to keep the temperature of the gas flow out of the first catalytic stage at or above a chose temperature.

Claim 15 (previously amended) The process according to claim 14, in which the said chosen temperature is at least 5°C above the dew point of the sulphur.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The process according to claim 13, in which the region of the first catalytic stage upstream of the introduction of the temperature

moderating stream is operated at a temperature which ensures essentially complete destruction of any carbon oxysulphide and any carbon disulphide present.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The process according to claim 13 ~~1~~, in which the water vapour-depleted reduced gas flow is heated to above the sulphur solidification stage upstream of introduction into the first catalytic stage.